

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

S E C R E T CAIRO 007510

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/28/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [KPAL](#) [EG](#) [SY](#) [IS](#) [IZ](#) [MEPN](#)

SUBJECT: SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD'S SEPTEMBER 26 VISIT TO EGYPT

Classified by Charge d'Affaires, Stuart Jones, for reasons
1.4 (b) and (d).

Summary

1. (S) Senior Egyptian contacts have shared read-outs with Post on the September 26 visit to Cairo by Syrian President Asad. President Mubarak reportedly pressed Asad hard to cooperate with the UN investigation into the killing of Lebanese Prime Minister Hariri and to stop interfering negatively in Lebanon. The subject of ending support for the insurgency in Iraq appears to have factored less prominently in their discussions (at least according to GOE readouts), apart from Mubarak's call for Bashar to respond favorably to U.S. concerns. Asad was reportedly uninformed on events and out of touch on the level of his country's international isolation, including by traditional allies Egypt and Saudi Arabia. End summary.

Presidential Spokesman on Asad Visit

2. (S) Presidency Spokesman and Advisor to the President Soliman Awad conveyed to the Charge September 27 that President Mubarak delivered a tough message to Bashar Asad during the latter's September 26 visit to Cairo. Summing up the outcome of the meeting which included Egyptian Intelligence Chief Soliman and Foreign Ministers, Awad said that the Syrian President "went in cheerful, and came out pale." According to Awad, the Syrian President was unaware of many details on current events that President Mubarak described to him. People around Asad, Awad said, were clearly keeping information from Asad. Mubarak described the gravity of the current political situation to Asad, as the Syrian President clearly did not fully comprehend the full implications of recent events. Citing an example, Awad said that Asad was unaware of a letter that had been written and addressed to Syrian Military Intelligence Chief Asif Shawkat by UN-appointed investigation head Detlev Mehlis.

3. (S) Describing further what he characterized as a blunt and tough GOE message, Awad said Mubarak warned that Syria was isolated on the international stage. Furthermore, Mubarak cautioned Asad from the latter's reported threat made during the meeting to use Palestinian factions in Lebanon and Syria to relieve pressure on Syria. Mubarak chastised Asad for "not listening" to GOE advice before passage of UNSCR 1559 - "I warned you. Your father used to listen, but you don't listen" - Mubarak told Asad. Mubarak further counseled Asad to cooperate with the UN/Mehlis investigation both now and following the expected October 25 publication of the investigation report.

4. (S) Turning to Lebanon, Awad said Mubarak insisted that the situation in Lebanon must "remain calm." Any further disruptions, Mubarak cautioned, would be blamed on Syria. (Note: A bomb attack in Beirut on Lebanese Broadcasting Channel journalist May Chidiac took place one day prior to the Mubarak-Asad meeting. End note.) According to Awad, Mubarak shared that the GOE had reports of arms shipments from Syria to Lebanon which were "very upsetting." Responding to Mubarak's counsel, Asad indicated that he would "do his best" to comply with the UN/Mehlis investigation requests. Asked if the Syrian President had made any commitments on issues related to Iraq, Awad said he "did not know."

Comment

5. (C) This readout corroborates other reports and suggests Egypt decided to deliver a tougher-than-usual message to Bashar, probably based on their assessment that he is unaware of the depth of his isolation and the effect his lack of action on issues of concern to the U.S. is having. End comment.

Visit Embassy Cairo's Classified Website:
<http://www.state.sgov.go>